

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Withdrawn)** A method of providing a yarn or textile product with a desired property which comprises:

contacting a linker molecule comprising two or more carbene generating groups with a yarn or textile product, and a non-linker molecule having a desired property;

activating the carbene generating groups of the linker molecule to cause covalent attachment of the linker molecule to the yarn or textile product and the non-linker molecule, thereby attaching the non-linker molecule to the yarn or textile product by means of the linker molecule, and providing the yarn or textile product with the property of the non-linker molecule.

2. **(Withdrawn)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the non-linker molecule is covalently attached to the yarn or textile product in a single reaction step.

Claim 3. (Cancelled).

4. **(Withdrawn)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the non-linker molecule is a solvent, a synthetic or natural chemical, a synthetic or natural dye, a synthetic polymer, a biopolymer, a biomolecule, a biologically active molecule, a synthetic or natural vitamin or hormone, or any combination thereof.

5. **(Withdrawn)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the non-linker molecule is an enzyme (such as lysozyme), a growth factor, an anti-microbial agent, an antibiotic, a fungicide, an agent capable of suppressing the proliferation of bacteria or fungi, or any combination thereof.

Claims 6 – 13. (Cancelled).

14. **(Withdrawn)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the carbene is thermochemically or photochemically generated.

15. **(Withdrawn)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the linker molecule comprises a natural or synthetic polymer, preferably a biopolymer.

16. **(Withdrawn)** A method according to claim 15, wherein the linker molecule comprises a protein, peptide, or polysaccharide.

17. **(Withdrawn)** A method according to claim 15, wherein the linker molecule comprises a dextran-based polymer.

18. **(Withdrawn)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the linker molecule comprises a cleavage site which is cleaved under predetermined conditions to release the non-linker molecule or functional group from the yarn or textile product.

19. **(Withdrawn)** A method according to claim 18, wherein the linker molecule comprises a target for a hydrolytic enzyme to allow enzyme-induced, or biosystem-induced release of the non-linker molecule or functional group.

20. **(Withdrawn)** A method according to claim 18, wherein the linker molecule comprises a substrate for an endoglycosidase, or an endopeptidase.

21. **(Withdrawn)** A method according to claim 19, wherein the linker molecule is a dextran-based biopolymer which comprises a target for a dextranase.

Claims 22 – 24. (Cancelled).

25. **(Withdrawn)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the yarn or textile product is of natural or synthetic origin, a blend of synthetic yarns, or a blend of natural and synthetic yarns.

Claims 26 – 31. (Cancelled).

32. **(Withdrawn)** A method of covalently attaching a non-linker molecule having a desired property and/or a functional group having a different desired property to a yarn or textile product, thereby providing the yarn or textile product with the desired property

or properties, wherein the method comprises use of a linker molecule comprising two or more carbine generating groups.

33. (Previously presented) A yarn or textile product covalently attached, by means of a linker molecule, to a non-linker molecule having a desired property, thereby providing the yarn or textile product with the desired property, wherein covalent attachment of the non-linker molecule to the yarn or textile product is the result of reaction of carbene intermediates provided by the linker molecule with the yarn or textile product and the non-linker molecule.

34. (Previously presented) A yarn or textile product according to claim 33, wherein covalent attachment of the non-linker molecule to the yarn or textile product is the result of reaction of thermochemically or photochemically generated carbenes provided by the linker molecule.

Claims 35 – 36. (Cancelled).

37. (Previously presented) A yarn or textile product according to claim 33, wherein the non-linker molecule is an enzyme (such as lysozyme), a growth factor, an anti-microbial agent, an antibiotic, a fungicide, an agent capable of suppressing the proliferation of bacteria or fungi, or any combination thereof.

Claims 38 – 51. (Cancelled).

52. (Previously presented) A yarn or textile product according to claim 33, wherein the linker molecule comprises a cleavage site which is cleaved under predetermined conditions to allow release of the non-linker molecule or functional group from the yarn or textile product.

53. (Previously presented) A yarn or textile product according to claim 52, wherein the linker molecule comprises a target for a hydrolytic enzyme to allow enzyme-induced, or biosystem-induced release of the non-linker molecule.

Claims 54 – 58. (Cancelled).

59. (Previously presented) A yarn or textile product according to claim 33 which is of natural or synthetic origin, a blend of synthetic yarns, or a blend of natural and synthetic yarns.

60. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a yarn or textile product, a linker molecule comprising a dextran-based polymer or a cleavage site which is cleaved under predetermined conditions, and optionally a non-linker molecule as defined in claim 37.